

Amendment to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A device for reading or writing information, the device comprising:
  - an electromagnetic transducer including a plurality of solid transducer layers,
  - a substrate adjoining said transducer, said substrate shaped as a rigid body adjacent to said transducer and as a plurality of flexible elements distal to said transducer, and
  - ~~an actuator~~ a microactuator attached to said substrate distal to said transducer.
2. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein ~~said actuator~~ microactuator includes a layer of piezoelectric material.
3. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein:
  - said ~~actuator~~ microactuator includes a layer of piezoelectric material, and
  - said transducer layers are substantially parallel with said layer of piezoelectric material.
4. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein ~~said actuator~~ microactuator includes a plurality of layers of piezoelectric material.
5. (canceled)
6. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said flexible elements are substantially aligned with a center of mass of said rigid body.
7. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said rigid body has a media-facing-surface separated from a back surface in a Z-direction, and at least a portion of said flexible elements is disposed at a Z-height between said surfaces.

8. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said flexible elements are aligned substantially with a plane, and said rigid body and said actuator microactuator are intersected by said plane.

9. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said rigid body has a media-facing-surface separated from a back surface, and said back surface has a protrusion extending away from said media-facing surface.

10. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein at least one of said flexible elements contains a plurality of conductive leads.

11. (original) A device for reading or writing information, the device comprising:

a wafer substrate piece disposed between an electromagnetic transducer and an electrostrictive actuator, said substrate piece shaped as a rigid body adjoining said transducer and as a flexible element connecting said rigid body and said actuator.

12. (original) The device of claim 11, wherein said actuator includes a layer of piezoelectric material.

13. (original) The device of claim 11, wherein:

said actuator includes a layer of piezoelectric material, and

said transducer includes a plurality of layers that are substantially parallel with said layer of piezoelectric material.

14. (original) The device of claim 11, wherein said flexible element includes a plurality of flexible portions aligned substantially with a plane, and said rigid body and said actuator are intersected by said plane.

15-16. (canceled)

17. (original) The device of claim 11, wherein said rigid body has a media-facing-surface separated from a back surface, and said back surface has a protrusion extending away from said media-facing surface.

18. (original) The device of claim 11, wherein said rigid body and said actuator contain a material including silicon.

19. (original) The device of claim 11, wherein said device includes means for providing electrical voltage to said actuator.

20. (previously presented) A device for reading or writing information, the device comprising:  
an electromagnetic transducer including a plurality of solid transducer layers,  
a substrate adjoining said transducer, said substrate shaped as a rigid body adjacent to said transducer and as a plurality of flexible elements distal to said transducer, and  
actuation means for positioning said transducer,  
said actuation means attached to said substrate distal to said transducer.

21. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said flexible elements extend substantially parallel to a first plane and said transducer layers are substantially parallel to a second plane that is perpendicular to said first plane.

22. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said transducer layers include a plurality of active layers that convert a magnetic signal to an electrical signal, said active layers separated from said substrate by a plurality of inactive layers that do not convert between magnetic and electrical signals.

23. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein no part of said substrate is disposed further than said transducer from said actuator.

24. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein said flexible element extends substantially parallel to a first plane and said transducer includes a plurality of layers that are substantially parallel to a second plane that is perpendicular to said first plane.

25. (currently amended) The device of claim 11, wherein said transducer includes a plurality of active layers that convert a magnetic signal to an electrical signal, said active layers separated from said substrate piece by a plurality of inactive layers that do not convert between magnetic and electrical signals.

26. (previously presented) The device of claim 11, wherein no part of said substrate piece is disposed further than said transducer from said actuator.

27. (previously presented) The device of claim 20, wherein said flexible elements extend substantially parallel to a first plane and said transducer layers are substantially parallel to a second plane that is perpendicular to said first plane.

28. (previously presented) The device of claim 20, wherein said transducer layers include a plurality of active layers that convert a magnetic signal to an electrical signal, said active layers separated from said substrate by a plurality of inactive layers that do not convert between magnetic and electrical signals.

29. (previously presented) The device of claim 20, wherein no part of said substrate is disposed further than said transducer from said actuation means.